23381
Montgomery Co.
Page 1 of 6

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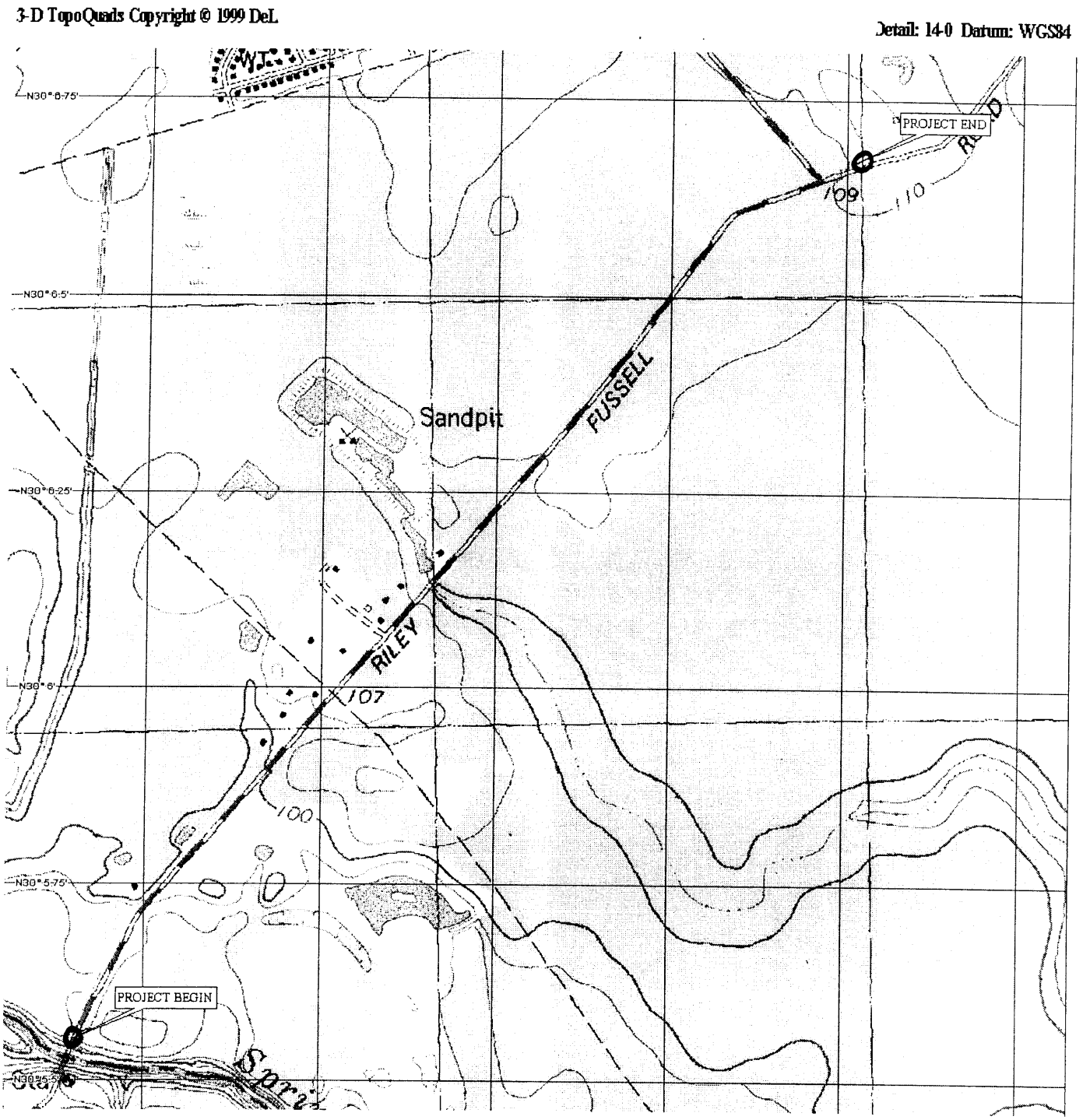

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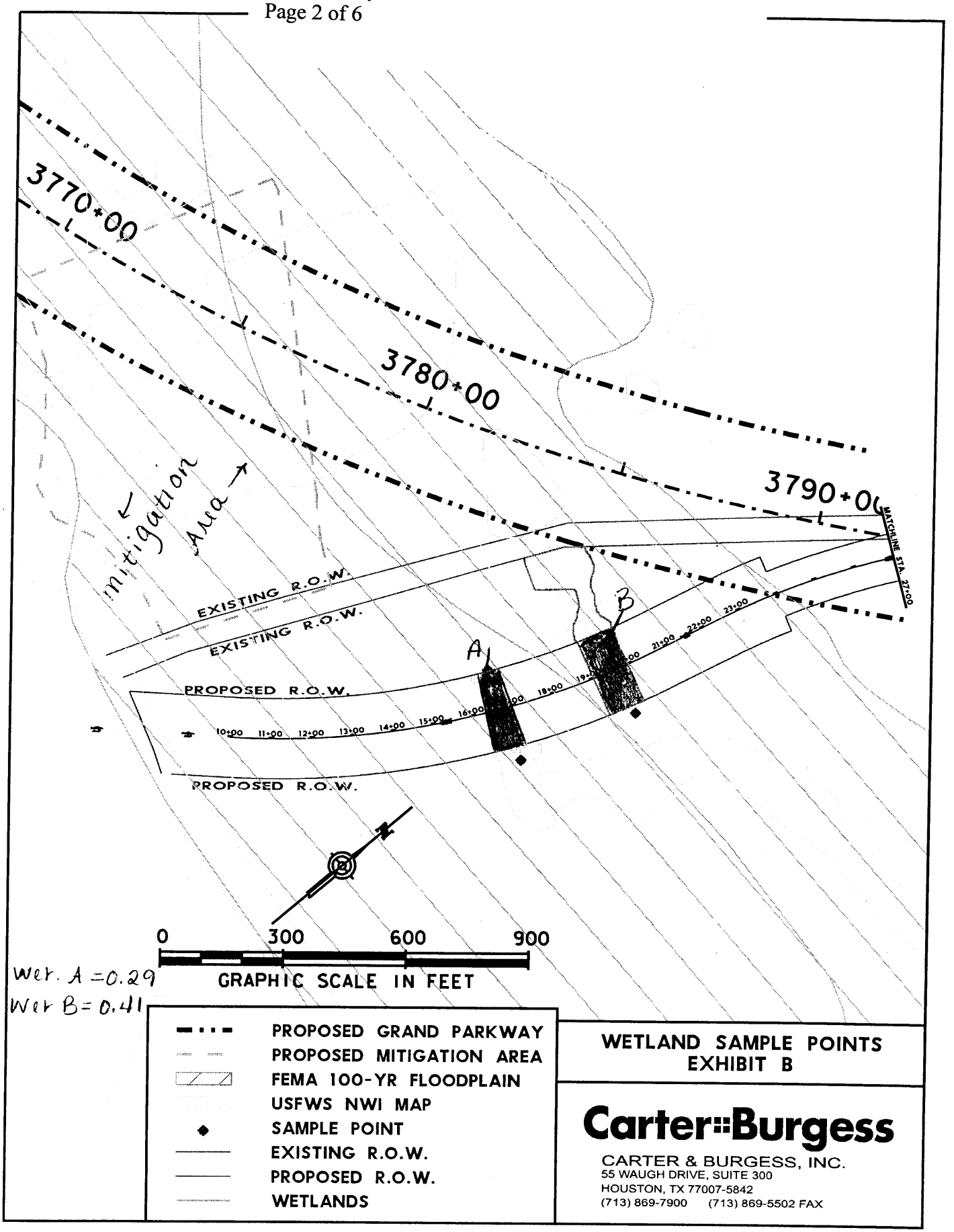
Exhibit A
Location Map
Montgomery County

Riley Fuzzel Road: From Approximately 100 feet North of Spring Creek to Approximately 450 feet North of Rayford Road

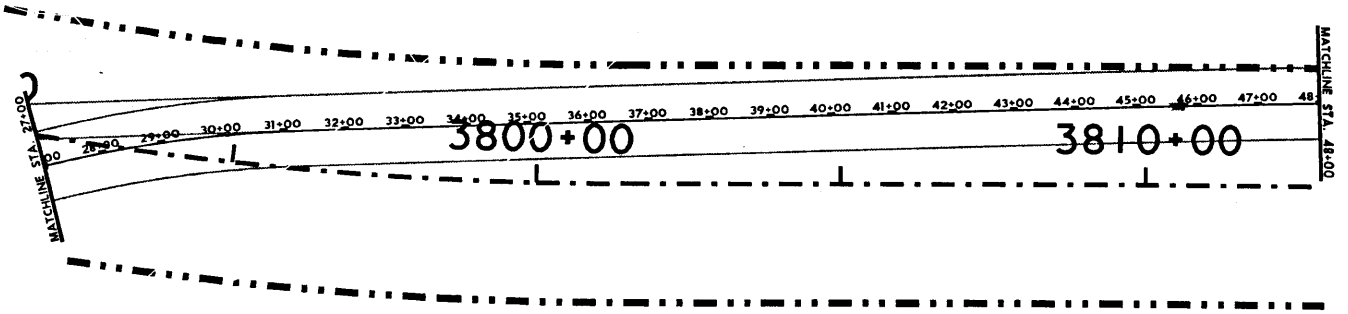


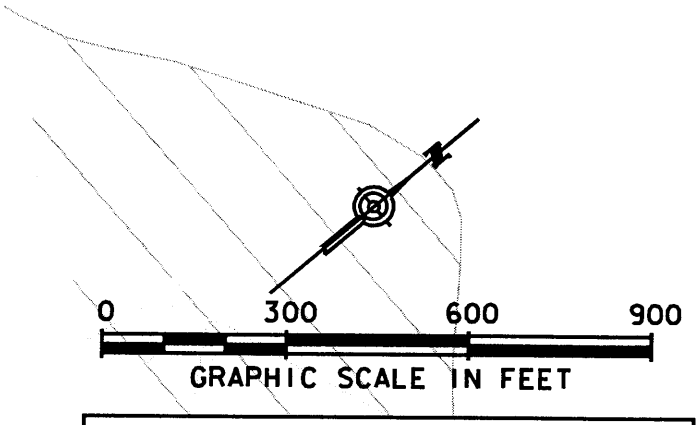
Wet. A = 0.29
Wet B = 0.41

PROPOSED GRAND PARKWAY
PROPOSED MITIGATION AREA
FEMA 100-YR FLOODPLAIN
USFWS NWI MAP
SAMPLE POINT
EXISTING R.O.W.
PROPOSED R.O.W.
WETLANDS

WETLAND SAMPLE POINTS
EXHIBIT B

Carter::Burgess
CARTER & BURGESS, INC.
55 WAUGH DRIVE, SUITE 300
HOUSTON, TX 77007-5842
(713) 869-7900 (713) 869-5502 FAX





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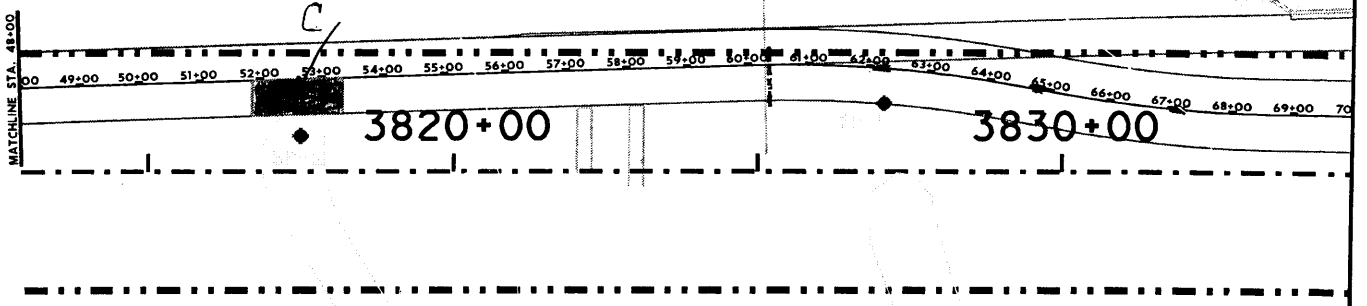

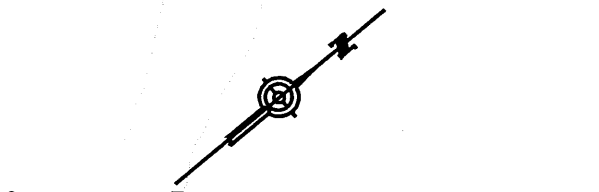

Wet C= 0.23

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Proposed Wetland Mitigation Plan

Introduction

Montgomery County is constructing a transportation project, which will realign the existing Riley Fuzzel Road, onto new location, and construct a new bridge over Spring Creek (which is also the Harris/Montgomery County Line). Harris County is responsible for the portion of the project in Harris County as well as the bridge over Spring Creek, which will extend into Montgomery County for approximately 100 feet. Montgomery County's portion of the project will begin at the end of Harris County's portion (approximately 100 feet north of Spring Creek) and extend northward for 1.7 miles, ending 450 feet north of Rayford Road (See Exhibit A).

The existing roadway is a two-lane undivided rural facility, consisting of 11-foot travel lanes, no shoulders and open ditches, within a 60-foot right-of-way (ROW). The proposed roadway would be a four-lane divided facility, consisting of 11-foot travel lanes, 6-foot outside shoulders and open ditches, within a 120-foot ROW. There are three low-quality wetlands, cumulatively totaling 0.93-acre, that are within the ROW and have been filled and/or graded during construction (See Exhibit B).

The project can be located on the Spring, Texas United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle map (30N 06' 16" 95W 24' 59"), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map titled Spring, Texas, and the Soil Survey of Montgomery County (Map number 81), Texas.

Plan Objectives

The objective of this Wetland Mitigation Plan is to preserve an aquatic ecosystem adjacent to the project limits, which are similar in the vegetation community but serve a higher function and value than the wetlands impacted within the project limits. The proposed Wetland Mitigation Plan is also within the same watershed as the impacted wetlands.

Proposed Wetland Mitigation Activity

To mitigate for impacts to 0.93 acre of low-quality wetlands, Montgomery County proposes to purchase a 10-acre tract of land found immediately west of the existing Riley Fuzzel Road and north of Spring Creek (See Exhibit B). Montgomery County would offer approximately 2.5 acres of forested and emergent wetlands, in the form of preservation. The wetlands offered for preservation are of higher quality in function and value than those wetlands impacted by the project. The vegetation in these wetland areas consists of juncus (*Juncus sp.*), sesbania (*Sesbania drummondii*), smartweed (*Polygonum sp.*), ludwigia (*Ludwigia sp.*), and black willow (*Salix nigra*). There is a pine/sweetgum (*Pinus taeda/Liquidambar styraciflua*) complex located on the remainder of the property, outside of the forested and emergent wetlands.

In addition, Montgomery County would preserve an approximately 100-foot wide and 625-foot long riparian corridor along the southern boundary of the property that abuts Spring Creek. This equates to approximately 1.4 acres dedicated for preservation. This riparian corridor is a valuable resource within the Spring Creek floodplain, because it preserves water quality by filtering sediment from runoff before it enters the creek; protects creek banks from erosion;

provides a storage area within the floodplain for flood waters; there are several relief channels which provide an additional hydrological connection to the adjacent wetlands, as well as provide, critical habitat for juvenile fish during large rain events; and provides food and habitat for other fish and wildlife.

A 400-foot corridor would be dedicated on the northern half of the property for the proposed Grand Parkway, Segment G, recommended alignment (See Exhibit B). While this alignment has not received a Record of Decision from the Federal Highway Administration, it is the recommended alignment in the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Due to design constraints, a shift in the proposed alignment to avoid the 10-acre property is not feasible. Although the Grand Parkway facility transverses a portion of the property, it is outside the boundaries of the proposed mitigation sites. In addition, design plans call for a portion of the facility to be elevated.

Protection of Adjacent Aquatic Resources

A total of 0.93 acre of wetlands has been filled as a result of the construction of the Riley Fuzzel Road project, thereby requiring a United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) After the Fact permit. A project that requires a USACE permit must use at least one of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) from each category listed on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Section 401 Water Quality Certification guidelines. The erosion control BMPs for this project would be sod, the sediment control BMPs for this project would be silt fence and the post construction total suspended solid control BMPs for this project would be vegetation lined drainage ditches.

Throughout the duration of the construction phase of the project, temporary erosion, sedimentation, and water pollution controls have been incorporated into the construction plans. These measures prevent or correct erosion that may develop during construction. The contractor would also take the appropriate measures to prevent, minimize and control the spill of fuels, lubricants and hazardous materials in the construction staging area.

Since the project disturbs more than one acre, it meets the criteria of the TCEQ Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) General Permit for Construction Activities, and is required to adhere to the criteria of the TPDES permit. In addition, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan has been incorporated into the construction plans. Areas outside the construction limits would not be disturbed.

Conclusion

This proposed Mitigation Plan is conceptual and subject to approval by the USACE. All acreages listed for the proposed mitigation sites are based on NWI mapping and limited field determinations. Pending acceptance of the conceptual mitigation plan, Montgomery County and Carter & Burgess, Inc. would like to meet with the USACE to work out a more detailed plan, which would also include surveying of the proposed mitigation property for accurate acreage wetland totals.